

Alfonsin Faces His First Crisis

Debt Payment Likely to Require Austerity in Argentina

By Edward Schumacher
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — The possibility that Argentina may have to introduce austere economic measures under an accord to help the country pay its huge foreign debt presents a political problem for the new civilian president, according to Argentine and Western officials.

The government says the \$500-million agreement, paying off over-due interest on Argentina's foreign debt, does not need congressional approval, and public reaction has been mostly muted as the agreement is studied.

The opposition Peronist party, trade unions, much of President Raúl Alfonsin's own Radical Civil Union and Mr. Alfonsin himself have long insisted that they would not accept internationally dictated recessionary measures.

In a speech to the nation Sunday night, Mr. Alfonsin applauded the U.S. government and commercial banks for their "positive and realistic" attitude in negotiating the emergency package. But, he said, he would not sacrifice the nation's standard of living to satisfy the demands of the banks and the international lending agencies.

The emergency accord, reached Friday with the Reagan administration, four Latin American countries and 11 U.S. banks, averted a potential economic crisis by com-

ing up with \$500 million to repay the overdue interest.

On Saturday, U.S. banks would have been forced to declare a large

Bankers greet Argentine loan with relief, along with new workers. Page 19.

part of Argentina's \$45-billion foreign debt as "nonperforming," which would have greatly lowered Argentine creditworthiness in the

world and possibly set off a financial war between Argentina and foreign banks.

Under terms of the agreement, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia agreed to put up \$300 million of the package. Argentina paid only \$100 million from its reserves, but in return for the Latin loans and \$100 million from the U.S. banks, the Alfonsin government agreed to sign a letter of intent to negotiate a longer-term agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

Bankers and U.S. officials say the agreement with the IMF is certain to require Argentina to impose austerity measures.

In January 1983, when the IMF approved a standby credit for the equivalent of \$2.18 billion, it reported that Argentina had agreed to a number of conditions, including a reduction of the country's budget deficit, an increase in interest rates, an improvement in the tax-collection system and the setting of a goal for a revised exchange-rate policy.

The four Latin American countries agreed to put up the new money only because the Reagan administration said it would repay them after Argentina reached an agreement with the IMF.

The government says it does not need Argentine congressional ap-

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Raúl Alfonsin

AP



Israeli border guards grappled with a suspect after the grenade attack Monday in Jerusalem.

48 Injured In Grenade Attack in Center of Jerusalem

By David K. Shipley
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — With gunfire and grenades, three Arab guerrillas attacked shoppers in the heart of Jerusalem Monday, injuring 48 persons near the central intersection on the Jewish side of the city.

Israeli storekeepers and pedestrians pulled pistols, chased one of the guerrillas and fatally wounded him. The two others were captured, the police said.

The attack was said to be the most brazen in Jerusalem in memory. Bombs have been planted in the city, but Jerusalem has remained immune from the guerrilla assaults that have taken place in other parts of Israel and the West Bank.

"This is different from any other incident," said Rahamim Conforti, the Jerusalem district police chief.

[Two groups, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Abu Nidal faction, both radical splinter groups of the Palestine Liberation Organization, claimed responsibility for the attack, according to United Press International. Abu Nidal had reportedly for a series of attacks on moderate Palestinian leaders, called the Israeli radio to claim responsibility.

[The Democratic Front statement was reported by the Kuwaiti news agency from Damascus. It claimed the attackers had stormed Israel's Tourism Ministry and taken hostages there, demanding the release of Palestinian guerrillas held in Israeli prisons. The Tourism Ministry building is near the site of the attack, but was not involved in it. No hostages were reported taken at any point.]

The incident began shortly before 10 A.M. The weather, warm and sunny, had brought hundreds of people into King George Street to stroll and shop. The sidewalks were thick with crowds.

The three men had come from Lebanon, according to a police spokesman. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who first reported that they had crossed the Israeli border with false papers and had picked up their weapons in an Arab village, said later that they may also have come from elsewhere. He suggested that the policy of allowing Lebanese to cross into Israel might have to be reassessed.

The three drove in a rented car Monday morning down King George Street, stopping about 50 yards (45 meters) from the intersection of Jaffa Road, the hub of West Jerusalem.

One stayed in the car while the other two, in their early 20s, entered the Habira sporting goods store. Speaking Arabic-accented English, they asked to try on some jeans, according to the owner.

"They asked to go to the dressing room," said Rani Cohen, a young man who works there. "I showed them where the dressing room was, and they went in and I stood near the room."

They suddenly emerged, one brandishing grenades, the other carrying what the police described as a small Czechoslovak-made submachine gun. He put the gun to Mr. Cohen's head and said, in English, "Don't move."

Suddenly, they rushed into the middle of the street, one shooting, the other throwing grenades. "And me, he didn't hurt," said Mr. Cohen.

The personnel ceiling appears to be a new approach by the administration to keeping the covert program.

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World Food Group Calls for Aid Plan Inspired by China's Crop Subsidies

By Michael Parks
Los Angeles Times Service

BEIJING — Ten years ago chronic famines were forecast for Asia, but rapid agricultural growth, particularly in China, has enabled the region to provide almost all the food it needs and has made it a model for Africa and Latin America, according to the executive director of the World Food Council.

Maurice J. Williams, the council's top official, said Friday in

Beijing that global food production increased faster than world population in the past decade but that the problem of hunger had deepened in many countries, especially in Africa, and was likely to continue to do so for the rest of the century.

Mr. Williams, an American economic development specialist, said he would propose at this year's world food conference in June a \$1-billion-a-year international assistance program that would go beyond current aid efforts by

subsidizing higher prices for farmers' crops, thus encouraging farmers to grow more without raising costs to consumers or governments with excessive debts.

"In the very poor countries of Africa," Mr. Williams said, "the prices paid to farmers are so low that they have no incentive to produce more, although the potential to do so is there. The prices are kept low, of course, to benefit urban consumers."

"So," he noted, "agriculture lan-

guishes, and people remain hungry."

China has largely resolved that dilemma, he said, with changes that began in 1979. Sizable increases in agricultural prices have brought record harvests in three of the last five years.

The cost has been high for China. To minimize increases in urban food prices, the government spends about a quarter of its \$58-billion budget for food subsidies — an additional 15 percent goes for

bousing and clothing subsidies — and that has hindered overall economic improvement.

Nevertheless, Mr. Williams sees in the Chinese approach many methods that could be used by other Third World countries to promote their rural development — five to 10 years of heavy subsidies for urban food prices — if the cost were underwritten by increased international aid.

Of the additional \$1 billion in assistance that Mr. Williams is pro-

posing, he would allocate half to subsidize higher prices that governments would pay farmers. The remaining \$500 million would go for increased capital investment and technical help. The program, which would run at least five years, will be submitted to the World Food Council, a ministerial-level United Nations body, at its annual meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June. If approved, it will be carried out by such international agencies as the UN Development Program,

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Weinberger Assures Turks on Arms Aid

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CESME, Turkey — The U.S. defense secretary, Caspar W. Weinberger, assured the Turkish government Monday that the Reagan administration would seek to overturn a move by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee linking aid to Ankara with concessions over Cyprus.

The committee voted last week to withhold \$215 million in military aid to Turkey unless the Turkish-occupied city of Famagusta was handed over to the United Nations

to allow the resettlement of Greek-Cypriot refugees from the area.

A U.S. official said that during a 50-minute meeting with the Turkish defense minister, Zeki Yavuzturk, Mr. Weinberger said the committee's amendment could hurt UN efforts to solve the Cyprus problem and that it was not in the interest of the NATO alliance. United Press International reported.

Turkish Foreign Ministry officials described the meeting with Mr. Weinberger as "positive" but

said that Turkey would not accept aid with conditions attached.

Mr. Weinberger was in Turkey for a two-day meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense ministers starting Tuesday in Cesme, a resort town on the Aegean Sea. It will be the first meeting of NATO's nuclear planning group since the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles began in Western Europe late last year. Reuters reported that NATO officials said the participants would try to avoid reviving the missile debate.



Medics give first aid to a victim after the Jerusalem attack. Most injuries were minor.

48 Hurt in Jerusalem Grenade Attack

(Continued from Page 1)

grenades, and when the attack began, the guns came out of belts and holsters. At least three, and perhaps half a dozen, civilians fired from the assailants. A soldier who happened to be passing by joined in, as did some policemen.

A wounded man, grenade in hand and blood streaming down his face, ran toward Jaffa Road. He died later. A second man was captured by border troops just up Jaffa Road, the police said, and a third was caught at a roadblock at the edge of Jerusalem, driving toward Bethlehem.

There were unconfirmed reports from witnesses that a blood woman had also stepped out of the car with the three men and was seen being taken into custody.

The police said that four grenades were thrown, all Soviet-made. Of the 48 people wounded, one was listed in critical condition and 34 were treated and released from hospitals by evening.

It was the third severe attack in Jerusalem in recent months. On Dec. 6, a bus was demolished by a bomb, killing six and wounding 41. On Feb. 24, two grenades, planted outside a clothing store in Jaffa Road, injured 21.

In another development, the Israeli Army closed down the Arab Bir Zeit university in the occupied West Bank Monday for one month after two days of student protests.

The military government administering the occupied territory said that on Saturday morning "more than 300 students gathered on cam-

pus, set up barricades and flew PLO flags."

The protest was staged in solidarity with Israeli Arabs, who demonstrated on the eighth anniversary of Land Day, which commemorates the Israeli expropriation of Arab lands in Galilee.

■ Rocket Attacked Claimed

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said Monday that its guerrillas had inflicted heavy casualties in a rocket attack on a settlement in northern Israel. Reuters reported.

"One of our units operating in the occupied territory succeeded in infiltrating all barriers at dawn and attacking Haon settlement, which lies southeast of Lake Tiberias in the north of the occupied homeland, with rockets," a Popular Front communiqué said. It said the Israeli settlers rushed into shelters but the attack caused heavy losses. All the guerrillas escaped safely, the communiqué added.

It did not specify the day on which the attack took place. An Israeli spokesman said Sunday night two Katyusha rockets were fired Sunday at Aduita, near the Lebanese border, but caused no casualties or damage and soldiers later found the launcher in a nearby village.

But strikes and strike threats have been increasing as the government is locked in a political struggle with the country's unions.

The strikes, such as a one-day job action by electrical workers last week, have been minor. But a number of major unions, including the railway workers and the auto workers, have begun to prepare for action.

Their demands are mostly for higher wages to stay ahead of inflation.

■ Alfonsin Cites Unity

In his speech Sunday night, Mr. Alfonsin said Latin America's cooperation in the emergency loan package signaled a unified attempt to solve the region's foreign debt problem, Reuters reported.

"From now on, any of the democracies of the continent that is in danger will be able to seek the solidarity of its equals in Latin America," Mr. Alfonsin said in the nationally televised speech.

He said, "I would like to point out that in these days we are the witnesses to a singular event: The debtor nations have got together to help each other pay their obligations, not to avoid their fulfillment."

■ Falklands Anniversary

President Alfonsin marked the anniversary of the April 2, 1982, invasion of the Falkland Islands on Monday by repeating his call for Britain to begin serious negotiations over the future of the archipelago, United Press International reported.

In a nationally televised speech after the unveiling of a monument at the City of Juan to Argentina's 650 dead and missing in the war, Mr. Alfonsin said, "Those who thought that the passage of time would dilute the Argentine conviction concerning our rights should realize now that time will neither weaken our belief nor the firmness of our decision to reach a just and definitive solution."

According to diplomats, Interior Minister Sergio Jarpa believes political pressure will continue until the government expands the economy.

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SPORTS

Baseball's Return Heralds Early Spring

By Joseph Durso
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Baseball, the symbol of spring and summer for more than a century, returned to the national scene Monday in its ariest, lengthiest and splashiest opening in history.

It will be surrounded by political skirmishes and hockey and basketball finals, but will make a sweeping entrance that was to start in cities Monday and will continue for 17 days in 26 stadiums before a million fans from Boston to San Diego. And, before the season ends in six months, more than 45 million people will pay to watch the 106 games that will jog the public consciousness until early autumn.

This is the 109th season for the National League; the 84th for the American; the 16th and last as commissioner for Bowie Kuhn, and the first for Peter Ueberroth, the new executive who will become sixth commissioner on Oct. 1, after his work as executive director of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee has ended.

It also is the first season under a new television contract that will pay the 26 clubs \$1 billion over 6 years. But it is the last season of the box-relations agreement with the 150 players, who went on strike two months in 1981 during a bitter fight to reach the current prece.

Payrolls have doubled in three years, the New York Yankees alone netted more than \$463,000 a season last season and attendance ached 45,340,338 for the sixth record in seven years. Louisville even became the first minor league team history to pass 1 million at the gate, and the minor leagues drew \$56,690 for their ninth straight increase.

But, while money has revolutionized a game once played in pastures, it clearly has drained the game's romance with baseball. Tom Seaver is gone from the New York Mets, Rich Gossage and the New York Yankees are gone from the Yankees. Pete Rose is playing for Montreal at the age of 43 and six different teams have won the World Series in six years. For the fans, on another opening day, that means drama enough.

"I like the look of 1984," Kuhn said before flying to Baltimore, where the Orioles were to raise their championship flag Monday. "There is a good balance in the visions, and I would not be surprised to see another all-time attendance record. It cannot be too long before we will be averaging 2 million per club."

The curtain was to raise Monday in Cincinnati, where the Reds play the Indians in the traditional "early opening" that dates to the days when President William Howard Taft frequented his home ball park. In the American League, the season was to open with Chicago in Baltimore, Boston playing California in Anaheim and Yankees in Kansas City.

This is a "fair weather" start prompted by the snows of recent springs. In both leagues, Northern and Eastern teams generally are opening in the South and West; it will be April 17 before all the travelers return home for the final round of home openers in New York, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Montreal.

"One reason is that the calendar breaks that way," a member of the commissioner's staff explained.

"Another is that more people are likely to go to ball games in April than in October. And we're trying to keep the playoffs and World Series from getting into the frost."

The openers also will feature an unusual cast of public figures as the

Baker Signs With Giants

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — On the eve of the National League season, the San Francisco Giants announced they had reached agreement with Dusty Baker, the Los Angeles Dodger outfielder they had pursued for six weeks.

General manager Tom Haller said Sunday that Baker's contract would be for two years with an option for a third — providing Baker could pass a physical exam.

Baker, 34, is expected to report Tuesday and will be placed on the restricted list for 10 days, allowing him to work out with the team but not play. When Baker ends his 10-day rehabilitation period, the Giants will have to cut a player from the team's 25-man roster to make room for him.

The agreement is believed to be in excess of the \$1.4 million Baker had with the Dodgers, who placed him on the waiver list on Feb. 9. The Giants claimed Baker at the time but he refused to sign with them.

Meanwhile, the Texas Rangers placed veteran shortstop Bucky Dent on waivers. Rumors of a possible waiver had circulated since last week when Dent, a 10-year baseball veteran, lost his starting job to rookie Curtis Wilkerson.

And Mike Norris, the Oakland A's former Cy Young Award-winning pitcher, has been placed on the 60-day disabled list and may not pitch competitively this season.

Norris underwent shoulder nerve surgery last November and has not picked up a ball since the summer of 1983.

"This is hard for me to accept," said Norris of his arm problem. "Not being in spring training made me crazy. But the A's have been patient and care about me, so that makes me feel better."

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stars of another national tradition: throwing out the first ball.

Vice President Bush will deliver the ceremonial pitch in Houston on Tuesday. The governor of Minnesota, Rudy Perpich, will throw out the first ball in Minneapolis, along with Harmon Killebrew, who was elected this year to the baseball Hall of Fame. Another new member of the Hall of Fame, Don Drysdale, will throw the pitch for the Chicago White Sox.

The actor Yul Brynner, who says he once played the lead in "The King and I" with a tall transistor radio tuned to the World Series, will pitch in Kansas City. Last year, he did it in San Francisco. Bobby Brown, the one-time Yankee infielder and heart specialist who was elected president of the American League in December, will make the pitch in Arlington for the Texas Rangers.

In a kind of ecumenical approach, teams will even turn to other sports for ceremonial pitchers. Ray Meyer, just retired as coach of the DePaul University basketball team, will throw out the first ball for the Chicago Cubs. And Jim Plunkett, the quarterback who led the Los Angeles Raiders to their Super Bowl victory in January, will toss out a baseball for the San Francisco Giants.

"We know it's unusual," said Duffy Jennings of the Giants' front office staff. "He's a football player,

and the Raiders caused a lot of bad feeling when they left Oakland.

"But we see Jim Plunkett as a local kid, born in San Jose, went to Stanford, played quarterback for the 49ers. He had to overcome a lot. Both parents are blind, he led the Raiders when he was pretty old. He symbolizes the new attitude of our ball club: 'stick to it.'

In Cincinnati, where the Reds have finished in last place the last two years, the first pitch will be thrown by a fan, presumably the symbol of the team's long suffering.

It will be a season of new milestones for old folk-heroes. Pete Rose opens it only 201 hits short of Ty Cobb's record of 4,191, a record that has stood for half a century.

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